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Letter dated 14 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the facts in relation to an incident of forgery and misrepresentation of status that occurred at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 12 to 19 April 2015. In collusion with the host country and certain members of the Credentials Committee, two Syrians falsely presented themselves as having a particular official status, when in fact they did not. Those persons attended the above-mentioned Congress on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic without having been delegated by the Government to do so.

The individual named Nizar Hasan al-Hiraki presented himself as the Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Doha, while the individual named Muhammad Radwan Mustafa presented himself as the Director of Communications of the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Doha. They did so by addressing an e-mail to the organizers of the Congress in which they referenced an invitation from the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The organizers, both from the United Nations office and the Qatari Government, facilitated and helped carry out this shameful falsification, which constitutes a blatant violation of the law, establishes a dangerous precedent and contravenes established practice. The organizers colluded and they ignored established practice with regard to the accreditation of delegations participating in the Congress as follows:

1. They failed to communicate with the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Vienna in the registration process, in order to verify the participants' identities.

2. The Credentials Committee failed to ask the imposters to produce the required accreditation documents, which must bear the seal and signature of the Head of State or Government or of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or to provide copies pending the provision of original documents bearing a true seal and signature to the Credentials Committee of the Congress.

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3. They ignored the well-known fact that the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Doha is closed because of the hostile position of Qatar and its policy of funding and supporting armed terrorist groups, at the forefront of which are entities that are linked with Al-Qaida and included in the lists of terrorist organizations maintained by the Security Council.

Accordingly, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would be grateful if the Secretary-General would take the following actions:

1. Reissue the document that was issued on 18 April 2015 under the symbol A/CONF.222/L.5 regarding the credentials of the delegations that participated in the Congress. The reference to the participation of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic should be deleted, as that did not happen.

2. Conduct without delay an inquiry into how individuals without any official status with the Government were allowed to participate on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic in an international conference that was held under the auspices of and organized by the United Nations, and to inform us of the outcome of the inquiry. The officials who facilitated the misrepresentation and forgery that occurred at the Congress should be held accountable, because such misrepresentation and forgery are illegal, and contravene the law and the rules in force at the United Nations and at the international level. It was also a brazen crime that occurred at a conference devoted to crime prevention.

3. Instruct the competent departments in United Nations to investigate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime officials who were responsible for organizing the above-mentioned Congress, owing to their collusion and failure to coordinate with the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in Vienna with regard to the verification of the participants' identities, and to hold them accountable. We should like to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative